

NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.

FORTIETH SESSION.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY

THE PRESIDENT,

MR. WILLIAM GLOVER, F.R.I.B.A.,

15TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE :

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

It is with pleasure I meet you at the opening of the Fortieth Session. Before its close, will be ushered in, the last year of the present century, which has been the most remarkable as to the advancement of Science and Art in the history of this Empire.

The introduction of steam, hydraulics, and electricity has revolutionized the world, and by their power we have been able to carry out our great Architectural and Engineering Works.

A year has passed since my friend, Mr. RICH, gave an exhaustive address on the progress of Newcastle, to date. Many of the works then in hand are now completed, or nearing completion. Amongst these may be mentioned the Asylum, by Mr. DYSON; the Young Men's Christian Association Premises, by Mr. TAYLOR; the County Hotel, by Mr. GRAHAM; the Wholesale Co-operative Stores, by Messrs. OLIVER, LEESON, and WOOD; and amongst the works now in progress, the extensive block of buildings in Collingwood Street, also by Messrs. OLIVER, LEESON, and WOOD; Offices for the Newcastle Breweries Company, in the Haymarket, by Messrs. S. OSWALD and SON.

It may not be known to many of our Members, that the Portico, at the Central Station, which was designed by our first President, the late Mr. JOHN DOBSON, fifty years ago, has not been finished. The keystones of the arches of the carriage-way have still their quarry faces. I have been trying to influence the North-Eastern Directors to complete it, and trust it may be done.

I sincerely hope that, before the close of the century, the contemplated scheme for an Art Gallery, worthy of this City, will be carried out.

When we look back on the past, and see what was accomplished by RICHARD GRAINGER, we anxiously look for a successor to him, with the same broad conceptions, and men of genius and capital to assist him, we might then hope to have Grey Street carried through to the Haymarket, in connection with which, I think, a site could be found for the erection of a Town Hall which would rival those in kindred cities, and thus add dignity to the Metropolis of the North.

Owing to the energy of our Mayor, Mr. RILEY LORD, the public spirit shown, and the benevolence of our departed friend and citizen, the late Mr. JOHN HALL, we shall have an Infirmary erected worthy of the City, and exceedingly gratifying to us is the fact that our old friend, Mr. NEWCOMBE, has secured the award and the commission to carry out the work. We trust he will have health and energy to see to its completion.

There are among our fellow citizens many noble and generous men, who are always ready to help in any good scheme. We admire

Alderman STEPHENSON'S effort for the education of the people, as exemplified by his gifts of two handsome buildings.

This being the 500th anniversary of the Municipal Charter, we hope that we shall see public spirit raised to carry out some grand and important schemes that will make it a record year for future generations to appreciate and admire. We must not lose sight of the fact that the enormous increase of the population will call for large schemes to meet their requirements.

During the thirty years I have been amongst you, there has been no period equal to the last two or three years, in developing estates within a three miles' radius of Newcastle, and the enormous number of houses that have been erected and occupied during that period. There have been about 400 acres laid out, plans passed for 8,000 houses, and about 3,600 houses erected, of which, if you examine the estates, you will find very few unlet. As far as my experience goes, the houses on the estates are let and occupied before they are practically finished.

I think the time has arrived when County Councils or Corporations should have power to force, or by payment to secure, open spaces, and thus give lungs to what must eventually become densely populated districts; in fact, the giving up of land for open spaces increases the value of dwelling-houses by beautifying the district, and giving space for recreation, in close proximity to the property.

But, coming more home to the Association work, I exceedingly regret that the three schemes I was anxious to carry out have not been more liberally dealt with—namely, a home for the Association, a fund to secure a good library, and prizes for the Students. For the former we have had a few promises, and our good friend, the Hon. Secretary, who is always ready to help, kindly joined me in a few calls.

The difficulty appeared to be in not having a definite scheme to lay before our friends. However, I hope this may be rectified, so that we shall have a ready and liberal response. An Association, with Members and Associates alone numbering over 100, ought to be able to succeed.

The Library and prizes do not appear to create much sympathy, although we must feel they are great auxiliaries in stimulating and training our Students in the great work in which they will be engaged. Many of my friends remark: "They should have sufficient interest in their work without being influenced by the prospect of gaining a prize;" but the offer of a prize not only stimulates an effort to secure, but when secured, places the successful Student above his compeers, and thus, to use a commercial phrase, is an advertisement he can make use of in the future by stating that he gained a prize for such and such work.

In this age of photography, so many are tempted to use the lens, instead of the pencil. The more we stimulate our Students to sketch the better, for they will find the advantage in their future work.

Then again, the Library I consider most important. The majority of us are better imitators than originators. Therefore, we should place before our Students the highest works in the Art we can procure, so that they can study the works and thoughts of others.

We have the authority of the great philosopher for the statement, that man cannot imagine anything but that which exists, and his conceptions are, therefore, based on the existing. No doubt RUSKIN felt this when he said, "If you wish for grace and beauty, go to the grasses."

The works of nature constitute our most noble object of study, and we cannot but imagine that this idea had a very great influence on the Greek nation. A nation whose name always sounds to my ear like the notes of a well-tuned instrument, whose sublime models still constitute our most worthy objects of study and imitation. All that is great, noble, and beautiful, is typified, or I may say, exemplified in her grand conceptions of Architecture, the grace and beauty of her Sculpture, the sublimity of her Literature, and the simplicity of her Laws.

We have, however, perhaps some little advantage over our ancient instructors in so far as we have now at our disposal both methods and materials of which they were ignorant, and it is in keeping ourselves abreast of the times in regard to the advancement of constructive and sanitary science, that we and our Students have to study the recent engineering works as well as the ancient models.

I remember, thirty years ago, meeting some of the Students of this Association, who are now some of our successful Architects, and who informed me that it was a rule with them to read the professional papers. I would strongly advise our Students to do the same; thus many valuable suggestions are secured and carefully worked out drawings analysed. This will all tend to help on the education in the art we love. My old master's remark was: "If you are doing anything you don't understand in construction or design, do not fail to ask for it to be explained." Our Students may do well to remember this advice, and use every opportunity of studying the structural part of their work.

The late THOMAS CUBIT felt this was a want in most of his draughtsmen. He remarked, "I have many draughtsmen, but few who know how to combine design with the principles of construction."

I would suggest that they take every opportunity of studying the works, not only of our own, but those of other countries, and hope some day a fund will be raised to help them. I can assure you that

when I had the privilege of examining the great architectural works of the past in Italy, France, Germany, and Belgium, I began to feel how much we owed to their noble works in influencing our education in the art.

We should do everything we can to help the Student in his work.

If we call up memories of the past, we will realise the pleasure given us by any little attention and assistance that was rendered.

Thackery once remarked: "I like to give a boy a shilling, because when he becomes a man he will give another boy a shilling." So let us give all the sympathy and assistance we can, that when they fill our places they will then give it to the Students of the coming age.

At our last examination we were obliged to borrow a model. This difficulty will be removed.

Feeling anxious to get the best and most suitable models to help the Students in their examination for the R.I.B.A., I wrote to the Secretary of the R.I.B.A., who advised me to write to the Secretary of the Architectural Association, who kindly sent me a list and advised that the best casts can be obtained from D. BRUCCIANI and Co., 40, Russell Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. When in London, I called upon them, and since then your Hon. Secretary has seen them.

The following are the works selected :—

Lysicrates Scroll, Athens.
Capital, from Stone Church, Kent.
Moulding Boss, from St. Stephen's, Westminster.
Gothic Capital, from Temple Church.
Acanthus Leaf, from St. Eustache, Paris.
Small Acanthus Leaf, from the Temple of Jupiter Stator.
Pilaster, from Notre Dame.
Panel, from San Micholi, near Venice.
Spandril, with Patera, from Poet's Corner.
Four Caps, Louis XII. Pilasters,

Which I will have pleasure in presenting to the Association for the use of the Students.

I am exceedingly anxious that all our Students should avail themselves of the Examinations for the R.I.B.A., which our Hon. Secretary is endeavouring to arrange here, to save their cost in going to London.

I begin now to feel that I have wearied my friends with this address, but the burden of my remarks are to the effect that we should do our utmost to make our Students better men than we are. I hope you will pardon me if, in closing it, I refer to some remarks I made in my paper on the influence of Nature on Architecture, by saying that we must do our utmost so that the buildings which

are erected on this favoured land of ours will speak with sublime and joyous language to a passing world, and be of such stability, that when England is only known as a name of the past, her buildings of the Nineteenth Century will stand as models for the now infant empires, and cause them to love and honour the name of Britain. But long may she continue in power, and use it with wisdom for the benefit of the civilised and uncivilised world.



NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION



THE NEW PRESIDENT.

At the annual meeting of the Northern Architectural Association, to-morrow, an esteemed member of the Council of that body, and a well-known citizen of Newcastle, Mr Wm. Glover, will be elected president. He has been thirty years in business as an architect, and "New Newcastle," in the more desirable residential quarters, has been largely built from his designs. It is sufficient to point to the development of such building ground as the Buddie Atkinson estate at Benwell and Wallsend, extending to 100 acres, the Beech Grove estate between Elswick and Westmorland Roads, the Brandling Park, Lambton, and other estates. Mr Glover was the architect for the Newcastle Jubilee Exhibition, held in 1887, and its pleasurable courts and alleys will be long remembered. Mr Glover is the eldest son of the late Mr W. Glover, of Windsor. He was a pupil of the late R. Brown, author of "Sacred and Domestic Architecture," &c., student of the first school of design held at Somerset House in 1850. Among the works carried out by him since coming north are additions to Bothal Castle for the Duke of Portland, buildings on the Eslington estate for the Earl of Ravensworth, alterations and additions on the Blenkinsopp estate for the late Mr Ed. Jocey, of Gateshead-on-Tyne; restoration of Blenkinsopp Castle for Major Coulson; extensive range of offices, pattern-shops, and stores for Messrs Hawthorn, Leslie, and Co., Newcastle; reading rooms for the late Mr Matthew Liddell, Prudhoe; extensive range of shops and show rooms, Pink Lane, Newcastle, for Mr Wm. Angus; the successful North-East Coast Exhibition of naval architecture and marine engineering in 1882. Mr Glover is likely to distinguish his year of office by giving to his profession an inducement to obtain a local habitation as well as a name.